



Hello Friends,

I am both humbled and pleased to say that this year's launch of **"Operation Gobble,"** a program to provide Thanksgiving turkeys to local families in need, was our biggest Thanksgiving success to date. This year, we gave away approximately **1,400 turkeys!**

In what has become an annual tradition for the 30th Assembly District, I gave away turkeys to families throughout the district at events in **Fresno, Hanford, and Bakersfield**. I was joined by **former Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, actor/comedian Paul Rodriguez,** and many local officials. Numerous community groups and individuals contributed to the effort, with turkeys distributed to constituents in **Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties**. I want to extend my gratitude to all of the wonderful organizations and individuals that really came through for my constituents with their generous support this year. With their help, we were able to provide a healthy and happy Thanksgiving to many families in this community.

To be able to help so many families is both personally and professionally rewarding for me. This time of year is a time for giving thanks for all that we have. I am blessed to have wonderful friends and family and am proud to serve the communities of the **30th Assembly District**. I sincerely hope your Thanksgiving was also a time for sharing.

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What's Happening in Sacramento

The Latino Legislative Caucus, Legislative Black Caucus, and Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus held a rare **joint policy summit on health and the environment**. I was pleased to attend this significant event co-hosted by the Hewlett Foundation. The summit brought together legislators, health and environment experts, practitioners, and civic leaders to discuss air pollution issues which dramatically impact the 30th Assembly District and California, particularly the poor people of color. A recent survey on Californians and the environment indicates that over 70% of Latinos consider air pollution a serious health threat to themselves or their family.

Special Session – Health Care

The new bill championed by Assembly Speaker Núñez includes the core principles of Assembly

Bill 8, the Democratic plan vetoed by the Governor, while meeting the Governor on other key elements of health care reform. In addition to cost-containment measures, the bill is financed through a combination of fees and taxes to be approved by voters. It has been a year since the Legislature started these negotiations, and progress has been made. But there are several outstanding issues with the Administration.

Hopefully, these issues can be bridged to bring affordable and accessible health care reforms. The issues have been the subject of much discussion and analysis for the last few months. It will take compromise. This bill will go through the Assembly Appropriations Committee and of course, the Senate. I am hopeful we can complete the task, and ensure that all Californians have access to high-quality, affordable health care.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=abx1_1&sess=CUR&house=B&author=nunez

Special Session – Water

Roughly three months have gone by since Governor Schwarzenegger called a special legislative session to deal with California's water crisis. With each passing week, the opportunity to place a water bond proposal on the February 2008 ballot becomes increasingly slim. The major difference is debate between Republican and Democratic lawmakers over funding for dams and reservoirs. For an interesting oversight of this historic issue, please read longtime Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters' take at www.sacbee.com/111/story/525991.html

My Legislative Highlights

I was honored to receive a "California Technology Leader" distinction from the AeA. AeA, the nation's largest technology trade association with 2,500 member companies representing all segments of the high-tech industry, is dedicated solely to helping our members' top line and bottom line. They have been recognizing state legislators for their contributions to the success of high-tech since 1991. www.aeanet.org

I am also thrilled to be recognized as "Legislator of the Year" by the National Latina Business Women Association (NLBWA). The award was presented at the NLBWA's Annual Conference. The NLBWA has been instrumental in creating growth and opportunity in communities throughout the Central Valley and California. NLBWA's mission is to promote, develop and support the rapid growth of Latina business owners and professionals. The national organization supports the development of chapters throughout the country and these chapters deliver programs and services enabling greater success for this critical, but underrepresented market. www.nlbwa.com.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

I am pleased to announce that the California Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded a grant in the amount of \$500,000 to **Self Help Enterprises**. **The funds will be used for the rehabilitation of ten single-family homes owned by agricultural households in Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties.**

In the District

I want to extend a huge round of thanks to the many individuals and organizations who donated funds to make Operation Gobble such a success this year. They include: **California Grape and Tree Fruit League, California Poultry Federation, California Water Service Company, Sempra Energy, Kern Oil & Refining Company, Kern County Fire Fighters Association, Kings County Ventures, Southern California Edison, McMillin Homes, Hansen Ranches, Sarah Woolf, Bakersfield Mayor Harvey Hall, and Fresno City Councilmembers Henry Perea Jr., Cynthia Sterling, and Blong Xiong.** On behalf of all of the families who received turkeys this year, thank you for making this the biggest and best year ever!

I also want to thank **Catholic Charities, Central Valley Family Health Clinic,** and the **Kern County Food Bank** for hosting the Operation Gobble distributions, and to **Kings Community Action Organization** for allowing us to use their cold storage facility. **Cost Less Foods of Corcoran** did a wonderful job of supplying us with all of our turkeys. I also would like to recognize **Encourage Tomorrow** for serving as the fiscal sponsor of this important endeavor and **Matt Rogers** for his invaluable help in transporting and delivering the turkeys. A special thanks to **Judy Horn** for her continued involvement and leadership with Operation Gobble.

I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the fine leaders of the **Maddy Institute** during a visit to **Fresno County.** The Maddy Institute undertakes a number of initiatives to increase citizen participation and government performance at all levels through leadership training for public service, including symposiums, internships, and forums. www.maddyinstitute.org

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley.** Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at:
Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at:
Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov

Bakersfield Office:

601 24th St.,
Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 334-3745
Fax: (661) 334-3796

Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St.,
Suite B
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 585-7170
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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